Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PA-02 ICA-20 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-14 /095 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:GGRIFFITHS:SP APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES EB/OA/AVP:AJWHITE EUR/NE:DTHOMPSON

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P 152115Z AUG 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EI

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US PROMOTION OF LOW FARES

REF: DUBLIN 02313

1. REFTEL CITED DE KASSEL ARTICLE CRITICISMS OF US PROMOTION OF LOW FARES. AMONG OTHER ARGUMENTS, DE KASSEL STATES THAT US LOW FARE POLICY IS AIMED AT DRIVING SMALL AIRLINES OUT OF BUSINESS, AND STEMS FROM A DESIRE TO ENTICE MORE EUROPEANS TO VISIT THE US. FOLLOWING IS PORTION OF ARTICLE FROM JULY 24 EDITION OF AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY WHICH EMBASSY MAY FIND USEFUL.

QUOTE AT BOSTON'S LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BOARDINGS WERE UP FROM YEAR-EARLIER LEVELS 4 PERCENT IN MAY, 100 UNCLASSIFIED

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PERCENT IN JUNE AND 190 PERCENT SO FAR IN JULY FOR AER LINGUS, WITH SMALLER, THOUGH SIGNIFICANT, INCREASES REGISTERED AT NEW YORK'S JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

APEX FARES ACCOUNTED FOR MUCH OF THE GAIN, BUT AER LINGUS CHARTERS WERE UP 50 PERCENT IN JUNE AND 20 PERCENT

FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF JULY. LOAD FACTORS WERE IN THE 80 PERCENT RANGE IN JUNE AND HIGHER IN JULY, LEADING AER LINGUS TO INCREASE CAPACITY WITH SEVERAL LEASED BOEING 707S. THE TRAFFIC OVERALL IS HEAVILY EASTBOUND WITH AMERICANS HEADED FOR IRELAND. UNQUOTE

- 2. ESSENTIALLY, ARTICLE EMPHASIZES:
- 1. AER LINGUS TRAFFIC AND LOAD FACTORS ARE UP DRAMATICALLY;
- 2. THE TRAFFIC IS PRIMARILY EASTBOUND AMERICANS TO IRELAND.

IT APPEARS THAT FAR FROM DRIVING AER LINGUS OUT OF BUSINESS, US LOW FARE POLICY HAS BEEN AER LINGUS BEST FRIEND. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: AIR FARES Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE206615
Document Source: CDR

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: GGRIFFITHS:SP Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D780334-0336

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780862/aaaabzpv.tel

Line Count: 80 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 3c0ef762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN EB

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 DUBLIN 2313

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 mar 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: N/A

Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1734082 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CIVAIR: US PROMOTION OF LOW FARES

TAGS: EAIR, EI To: DUBLIN Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c0ef762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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